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Merlin Olsen Celebrity Host

1989 LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW

FEB 10 2012

Merlin Olsen, television's best-known petal pusher, has lent his support to the ninth annual Los Angeles Garden Show. As celebrity host for the show, Mr. Olsen made a public service announcement distributed to major television stations and will speak at the California Arboretum Foundation's benefit Preview Party on Oct. 19.

The Los Angeles Garden Show, Oct. 20-29 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, has a new look in 1989. UCLA Landscape Architecture Student Association created the winning design to illustrate the Garden Show theme, "At Home in the Garden."

Instead of lining the grand walkway with flags or trees as in past shows, the designers have visitors enter through a 100-foot long house, one with the mere suggestion of a roof and floating windows. Walls are made of hedges and flowers to emphasize the close link between indoors and the garden in Southern California living.

The show originated at the Arboretum in 1981 as the inspiration of Arboretum director Francis Ching. The following year Cliff Comstock of Monrovia Nursery was named chairman, bringing with him the support of the Southern California nursery industry. With the industry's enthusiastic participation the show continues its steady growth. Overseeing the complicated logistics of staging the three-acre show is John Provine, Arboretum grounds superintendent. All three have seen the show grow over the years.

Mr. Provine said that this year Garden Show visitors will find about 25 model gardens, ones like those that in the past have made this the largest outdoor "idea" show on the West Coast.

Several of the designers who will create gardens for the show have released previews of their plans.

The garden built by Sam's Gazebo features a cozy space with picket fences enclosing a

Merlin Olsen, celebrity host for the 1989 Los Angeles Garden Show, uses the Tropical Greenhouse as a background for a televised public service announcement promoting the show.

waterwheel and a gazebo. At the other extreme, Monrovia Nursery's interpretation offers a view as wide as all outdoors with towering cedars and a glade bordered by rock plants to make visitors feel "At Home in an Alpine Garden."

Tropics Inc. plans a walk-through jungle; exotic plants will tower over both sides of the entrance to Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.

The 10,000 square-foot exhibit hall will again be filled with bold flower arrangements and tropical gardens overflowing with orchids, miniature trees and bizarre plants. Fifty Trade Mart vendors will offer gardening books, gadgets and plants from the exotic to the essential.

Novice or old gardening hands will learn from talks by experts every afternoon. Plant topics range from citrus trees to lawns and old fashioned roses. Or focus on improving home surroundings by finding out how to fight indoor pollution with houseplants and natural pesticides.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. As a bonus, visitors can spend all day enjoying the entire 127-acre Arboretum grounds when they purchase Garden Show tickets.

Tickets cost $6 for adults with 50 percent discount to seniors, those 13-17 and students with ID. Under 4 years are free. For more information call (818) 446-8251. The Arboretum is at 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, three blocks south of the 210 Freeway.

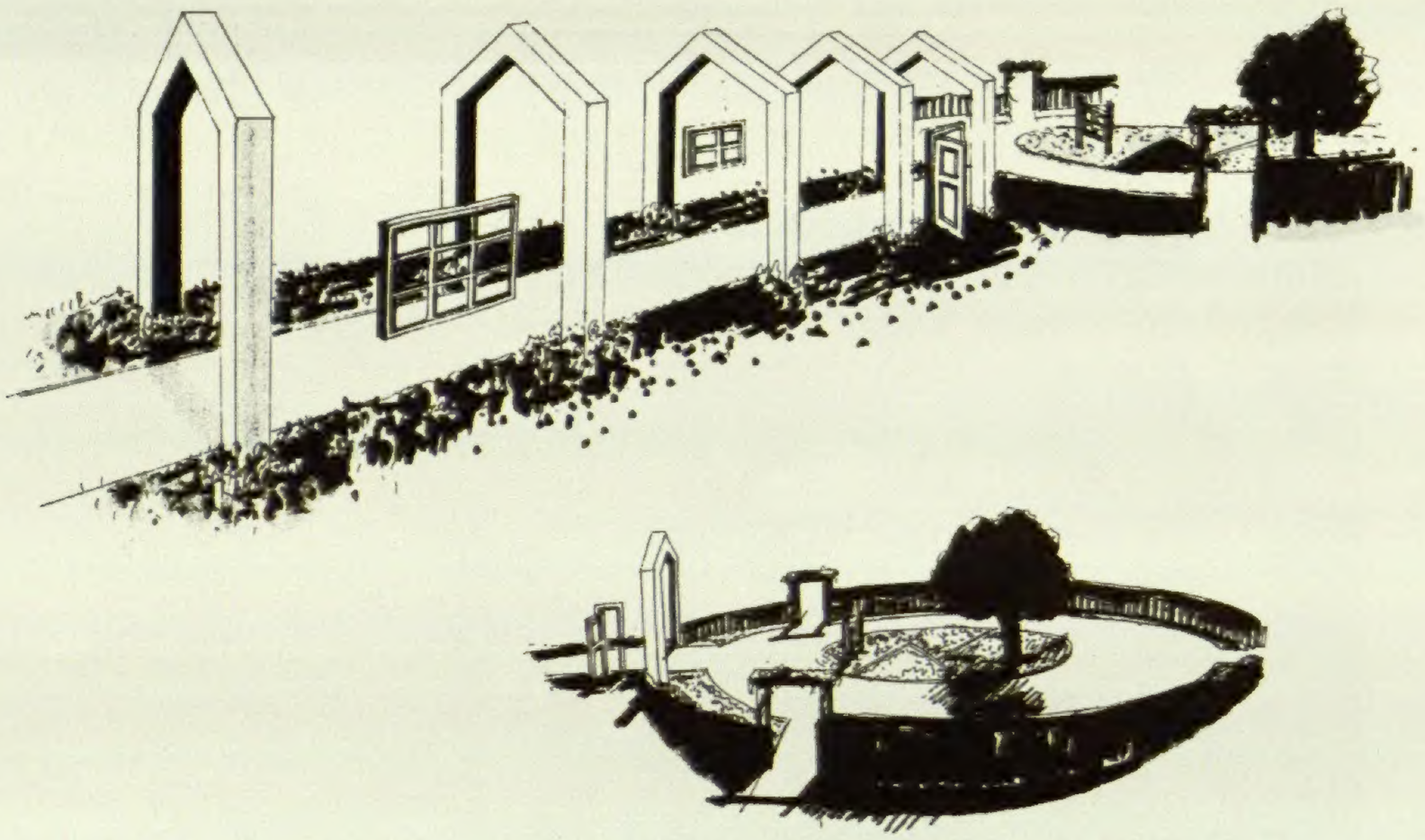
Gardening interest booms

Last year, attendance at the Los Angeles Garden Show increased 10 percent over 1987. This is great news for everyone who worked on the show, but the numbers are especially significant to exhibitors

This means thousands of potential customers were introduced to exhibitors' products or services. For them the annual show at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum has become an unsurpassed showcase to supply the growing boom in gardening.

Several national magazines such as Time recently examined the gardening boom in terms of lifestyle and emotional rewards, but the Los Angeles Times explored the financial impact of gardeners in its business section. According to an August 1988 article, California is the base for all the nation's major growers (which handled $1.36 billion last year) and major seed companies.

At the retail level, gardeners spent $8.57 million in 1987, an increase of $2.32 million over 1986. This is where the Los Angeles Garden Show has the most tangible impact. By exposing neophyte gardeners to fine landscape designs and materials, the show develops the market along more sophisticated lines. This in turn adds to the appreciation of exotic plants that are appropriate for testing at the public gardens.



Entry to the Los Angeles Garden Show leads through a minimalist house designed by UCLA Landcape Architecture Student Association.

At South Coast Botanic Garden

Superior rosemaries being field tested

While many Southern Californians use rosemary leaves in their kitchens, few realize that the rosemary plant (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) grows exceptionally well outdoors in our area. Fewer still may know that horticulturists have selected many superior forms which have been given fancy cultivar names. These selections have flowers that range from a clear, eye-catching blue to almost pink, from heath-like vertical spires to ground-hugging mats, and the leaves vary from relatively broad blades to tiny needles.

Among these many variations are plants that have potential to serve many common landscaping needs. The Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens has assembled a collection of cultivars for landscaping trials at the departmental gardens. Most of these are already well-established at the South Coast Botanic Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. They are grouped in the middle of the southern portion of the grounds where the road passes through the blue-shaded gardens.

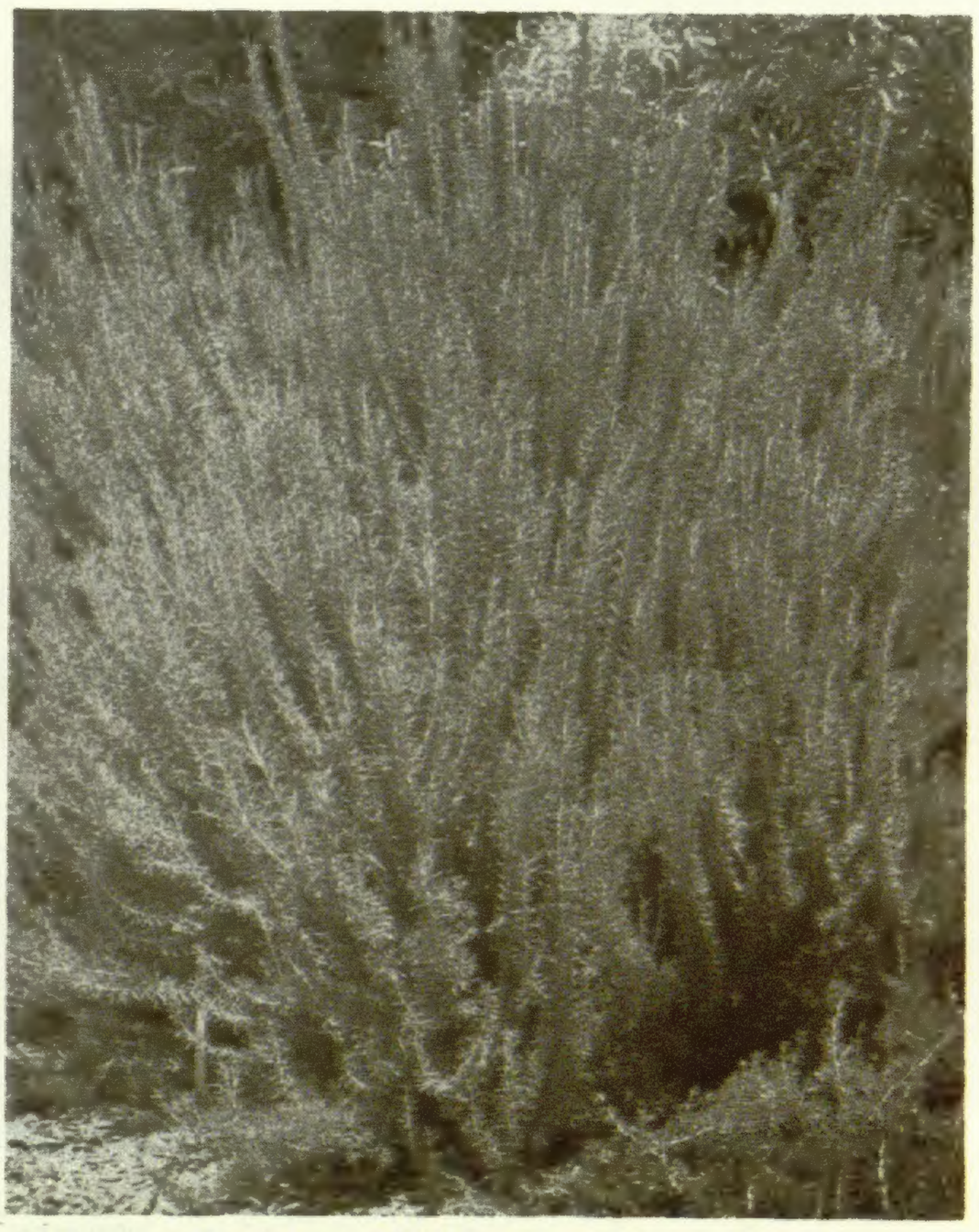
Rosemary grows naturally in the area around the Mediterranean Sea, an area climatically very similar to Southern California. As a result, the plants do most of their growing and flowering during the cool wet winter and spring seasons in synchrony with California's native plants. Like our own natives, rosemary does not suffer from summer heat, and it needs very little, if any, supplemental water to survive and look good in that stressful season. A thorough soaking every three to four weeks has proven sufficient in the Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

The low-growing forms of rosemary are very well suited as groundcovers. In that capacity, they excel in a sunny spot with good drainage. also serve well as a bank cover, planted among large rocks, or spilling over a wall. In contrast, cultivar Tuscan Blue grows straight to six feet tall and can serve as an accent plant, screen or hedge.

All forms of rosemary make perfect garden mates for California natives, gray-leaved and other "non-thirsty" plants.

---James Bauml, Senior Biologist

Groundcover 'Huntington Carpet' blooms profusely.



Spires of 'Tuscan Blue' grow up to six feet tall.

"Just Gardening" is not enough

Interns prepare for complex future

As environmental needs change with time, professionalism among horticulturists is moving from desirable to vital. Future "gardeners" face environmental problems such as air pollution and drought, as well as long-term puzzles like the greenhouse effect.

Brad Chapman puts his knowledge of plant care to work in an orchid growing house at the Arboretum.

They need specialized knowledge and licensure in areas such as pesticide application.

These are the challenges facing twelve aspiring horticulturists who completed the summer internship program at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The internship program rewards everyone involved--students, employers and society. And interns such as these gain the experience and exposure necessary to not only enhance the horticultural profession, but meet the needs of our changing society.

For the past 10 years the California Arboretum Foundation has funded the internship program, giving practical experience to more than 100 aspiring horticulturists.

The 1989 interns represent schools in California, Arizona, Michigan and New York, as well as different majors and special interests. But whatever their chosen field, all agree that their work at the Arboretum will be rewarded by valuable experience, knowledge and a clearer vision of the opportunities that await them. Cathy Babcock an Arizona State University intern, summed it up for all, "I think I want to get into horticulture and I'm here to decide."

Pictured from left, interns Brad Chapman, Mike Gallo, Tom Thompson and Joe Williams plant cycads in the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

The internship program also allows students to single out possible career interests through their exposure to all facets of the field. Interns do everything from the dirty work of pruning, raking, staking, digging, and weeding to plant propagation, collection,identification, and library research.

Susie Mrozek, an intern from Cornell University, is here to "get an overall view of different aspects of the field that are open for opportunity". David Paschke, from Grand Valley State University in Michigan, voiced the same desire.

Students also get the opportunity to glean knowledge in areas of their particular interest. Joe Williams, a California State Polytechnic University, Pomona student in agricultural biology, is learning about plant diseases and the conditions in which plants thrive. Nathan Trotter, a Humboldt State University student, is fueling his interest in forestry.

Program benefits are not simply experiential. Ileene Anderson, a California State University, Northridge student, finds it rewarding to be "given the opportunity to be around some very knowledgeable people in plant sciences". Tom Thompson, an ornamental horticulture major from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, enjoys "working with people who appreciate the same things".

Other summer interns include Brad Chapman, from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cynthia Simmons, a student at University of California, Riverside, and Dawn Zammitt, Mike Gallo and Janet Nickerman, all from Cal Poly Pomona.

While the interns gain valuable experience, their projects have made a visible difference on the grounds of the Arboretum. They installed drip irrigation in the upper and lower field nurseries and cleared the waterfall area for the first time in several years. The Prehistoric Jungle Garden now boasts newly-planted cycads, gingers thrive on Tallac Knoll, and garden visitors can "see the forest through the trees."

Disney works magic for "Imagineering" party.

The Walt Disney Imagineering Unit celebrated the completion of their Typhoon Lagoon project with a party at the Arboretum on Aug. 13. After-hours use of the county-run gardens by companies like Disney combines support for the garden with an ideal environment for a party.

Two former professors join staff

Dr. Steven M. Cohan joined the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum as horticulturist on May 15. Dr. Cohan is the former Horticulture Director at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

According to Arboretum superintendent, John Provine, Dr. Cohan's diverse background will benefit the Arboretum in many areas.

"His extensive experience with water conservation and plant introduction programs are his greatest assets," Mr. Provine said. This experience supports the Arboretum's programs of introducing horticulturally desirable plants into the Southern California landscape--especially those which conserve water.

Dr. Cohan's administrative skills will also help the staff identify and carry out departmental needs as well as inaugurate new gardening techniques.

Well-educated and trained in the education of others, Cohan holds a BS and MA in horticulture as well as a PhD in plant genetics. A former professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, he has given numerous lectures, radio talks and published several educational articles.

Dr. Cohan also served as a Senior Research Biologist for Monsanto Co., Director of Plant Breeding Research for Pan American Seed Company, Technical Editor for Ortho Garden Books, and owned and managed a retail nursery.

Dr. Cohan lives in Upland with his wife, Diane, and two children.

The newly established Dr. Samuel Ayres Endowed Chair of Ornamental Horticulture at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was filled recently with the appointment of Dr. Daryl Koutnik. Dr. Koutnik is a former professor of botany at the University of California at Riverside and greenhouse supervisor at Calgene where he assisted in research on recombinant DNA plants.

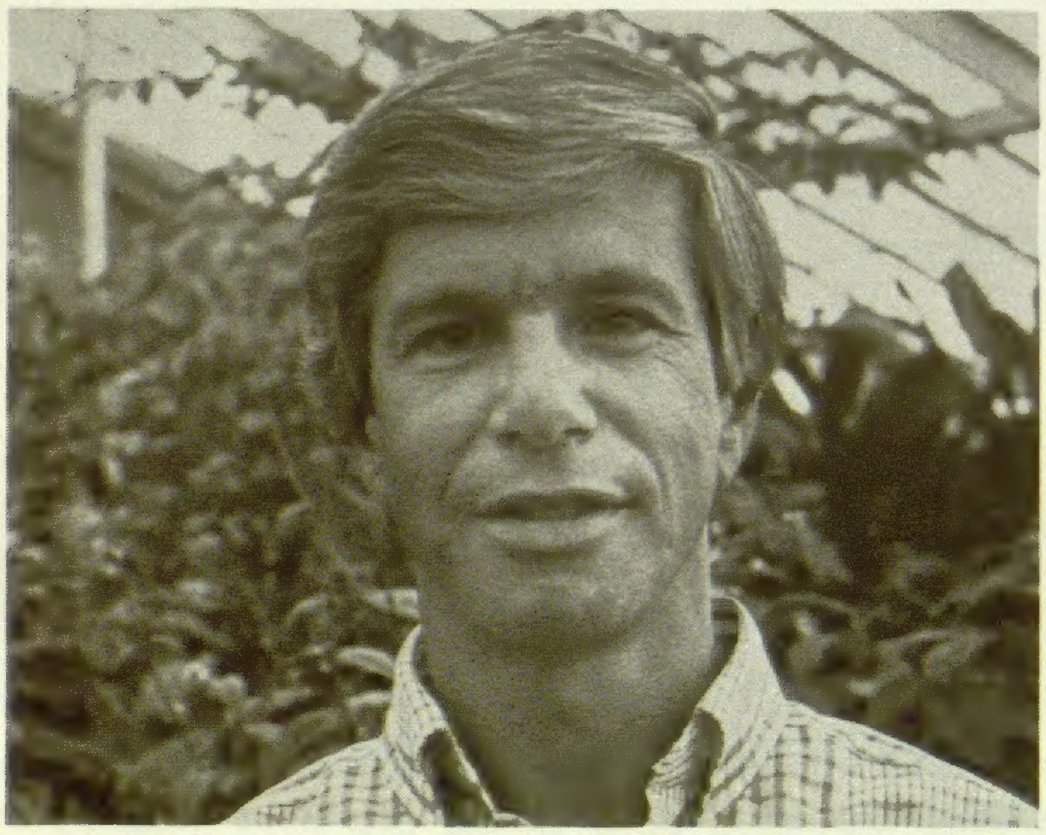
According to Senior Biologist, James Bauml, Dr. Koutnik's botanical experience will enhance arboretum collections and the plant introduction program.

When Dr. Ayres helped found the Arboretum in 1948, he intended to establish such a program. His bequest to the California Arboretum Foundation's endowment fund has added new momentum to the program that has already introduced 100 plants into Southland gardens over the past 40 years.

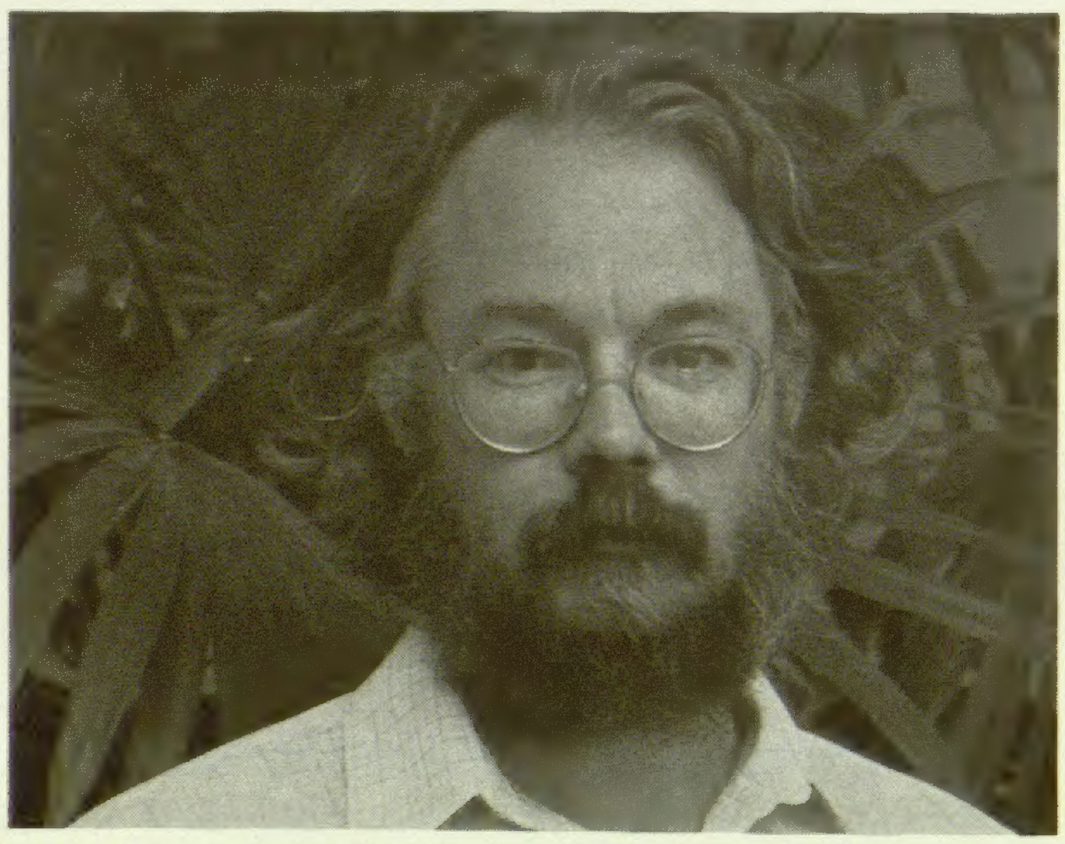
Dr. Koutnik will determine a need for new plants, collect them, and evaluate their suitability.

He has been a desert garden botanist at Huntington Botanical Gardens and senior scientific officer at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He holds a BA in mathematics and biology as well as a MS and a PhD in botany.

Science editor for the Euphorbia Journal, Dr. Koutnik also reviews scientific manuscripts for several other botanical journals and has written numerous scientific publications and popular articles.



Steven M. Cohan



Daryl Koutnik

Plans, plants and technology

Sell-out crowd learns water saving tips

"Gurgle, zap and wow" were among the watch-words of effective irrigation that listeners learned during a symposium at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum July 22. The sell-out crowd of almost 400 gardeners also learned more about native California plants and xeriscape design and maintenance.

Speakers at "Xeriscape for the Homeowner" were all authorities on various facets of water-wise gardening.

William Caplinger, xeriscape consultant and radio personality, used the memory jogging "Gurgle, zap, wow" to remind visitors that they can cut water use up to 50 percent by chosing the appropriate sprinkler heads (the "Gurgle") and electric timers (the "Zap") and spending the money ("Wow, is this stuff expensive") necessary for a quality irrigation system. Although he recommended hiring a professional to plan and install an irrigation system, Mr. Caplinger taught listeners enough about the fundamentals of irrigation for them to judge proposals.

Randall Ismay, a landscape architect best known for his work with Mission Viejo Company, defined the relatively new term "xeriscape" as the conservation of water through creative landscaping. He used a video to illustrate the urgency of careful water use.

Lisa Iwata, a landscape architect with Land Interactive, showed how water thrifty gardeners can still grow their favorite plants, even azaleas, by grouping them in a particular part of the garden. Planning, preparing the soil and choosing the appropriate microclimate is the key. This is not necessarily an overwhelming job, she said, and supported her contention with simple sketches that homeowners can do themselves.

John Dourley, former superintendent of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, showed California native plants that can fill any niche in a garden with flowers and foliage rivaling those of imported favorites. For instance, named cultivars of the California wild lilac (*Ceanothus*) on display range from low groundcovers to 12-foot-tall shrubs. Each produces clouds of fragrant flowers in pink, white or shades of blue from indigo to the palest tints.

During an afternoon tour of the Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden led by Dr. Steven Cohan visitors saw that all the theoretical information they had been absorbing can add up to a beautiful garden. Dr. Cohan, assistant Arboretum superintendent, demonstrated how a water-filled tube called an irrometer is used to determine when to irrigate the garden.

Bob Baier pointed out that after all the planning and installing is complete, any system needs maintenance and discussed ways to keep irrigation equipment operating efficiently.

"Xeriscape for the Homeowner," a pilot project to disseminate information on water saving landscapes, was sponsored by the Arboretum, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the City of Pasadena Water and Power Department, and the California Arboretum Foundation. Because so many environmentally aware homeowners responded, Ayres Hall of Environmental Education couldn't accommodate everyone, prompting plans for a reprise.

Another xeriscape seminar is scheduled in 1990 for May 19. If you are ready to change your gardening habits to fit today's water realities, call the Arboretum at (818) 446-8251 for registration information.

Steven Cohan (center) demonstrates a watering device called an irrometer to Water Conservation Symposium participants.

GARDEN EVENTS

Arboretum Library
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007
626-821-3213

OCT 20-29 — **Los Angeles Garden Show "At Home in the Garden"**
10 am to 6 pm
Arboretum
New ideas in garden design, plants and outdoor structures
Adults $6, 50% discount for seniors, youths & students

OCT. 25-29 — **Country Cottage Fair**
South Coast Botanic Garden
9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Holiday pleasures and country treasures--crafts, etchings, soft sculpture for sale

NOV. 11-12 — **Gift Shop Open House**
Arboretum
9 am to 4:30 pm
"Christmas in the Garden" introduces new gardening section. Demonstrations on herb topiaries, planting Xmas baskets

DEC. 2-10 — **Christmas Show**
Descanso Gardens
10 am to 4 pm
Holiday decorations, daily wreath-making, Xmas art show
Free tram to Hospitality House

DEC. 10 — **Open House**
Arboretum
10 am to 4 pm
Historical section decorated for Xmas, Tours of Depot, Queen Anne Cottage, Coach Barn

DEC. 2-3 — **Camellia Show**
Arboretum
Sat 1-4:30 pm, Sun. 9am-4:30 pm
Pacific Camellia Society exhibits prize flowers treated with gibberellic acid to produce large, early flowers.
Demonstrations each afternoon

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